

C L A I M S

1.- Ball joint with thermal protection which is of application to vehicle suspension and steering systems or stabilizer bars which are located in the vicinity of an source of excessive heat generation such as a brake and which starts from the basic incorporation of a swivel housing (1) on which one of the suspension components or equivalent is attached and which presents in its interior a housing (2) accommodating a bush (3) which rests and turns in sliding contact on a spherical head (4) of a knuckle stem (5), provided with a dust boot (6) linked by way of its base to the swivel housing (1) and by its neck (7) to an upper section (8) of the knuckle stem (5), essentially characterised in that it incorporates a thermal protector (9) integrated in the ball joint which presents a horizontal upper face with a series of flexible radial plates (10) defining interiorly a circular opening (11) which is fitted on a connecting ring (12), previously linked to the neck (7) of the dust boot (6) by overinjection or pressure and/or gluing, so that the thermal protector (9) covers the dust boot (6) to protect it from the high temperatures generated in the surrounding area.

2.- Ball joint with thermal protector according to claim 1 characterised in that the connecting ring (12) presents a base (13) and a side face from which there project a series of tabs (14) on which the plates (10) of the upper face of the thermal protector (9) press when fitted on the connecting ring (12) until passing over said tabs (14), with the result that the plates (10) are engaged between the tabs (14) and the base (13) of the connecting ring (12).

3.- Ball joint with thermal protector (9) according to the previous claims characterised in that the thermal protector (9) takes the form of a hood which extends initially in the horizontal upper face and is prolonged inferiorly by way of sloping side edges which terminate in vertical walls (16) defining a spacious cutaway (15) which leaves the dust boot (6) partly exposed in the sector opposite the sector of the ball joint facing the heat source, said vertical walls (16) being separated from the dust boot (6) defining an air chamber between both which produces the thermal insulation of the dust boot (6).

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